

Minutes for the 5/6/08 meeting of the Newington Human Rights Commission:

Present: Monica Golec Michael Munroe Christine Andrews Val Ginn Scott McBride
Tim Manke Ann Cameron Phyllis DiCara Jeffrey Cultrera, Ken Freidenberg

Absent: None

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

The first order of business was the upcoming **Memorial Day Parade:**

Val Ginn has submitted the application for the HRC to march in the parade. Parade participants are encouraged to meet at Badger field at 9:00am. The parade starts at 10:30am.

Jeff Cultrera reported that he has not received any phone calls from citizens interested in marching in the parade. The Diversity Club at Newington High has committed to sending students interested in marching in the parade. Due to prior commitments there are only about four HRC members that are able to march in the parade.

A call for volunteers to march in the parade will continue to appear in the Hartford Courant, Newington Life and Newington Town Crier newspapers.

Val Ginn showed the HRC the flags from the different countries that participants will be carrying in the parade. Val will try and reorder the flag from Spain as that flag came in at a different size than the others.

Christine Andrews volunteered to obtain the USA flag from Lowe's. Approximate cost is 20 dollars.

Val Ginn reported that the large HRC banner will be ready on 5/9/08.

The next order of business was discussion of the **Waterfall Festival on 9/27/08:**

Ken Freidenberg will check on purchasing the tent that the HRC will use at the Festival. Size of the tent is 10' x 10'. Sandbags or another anchoring device will be needed for the tent. Ken stated that he could get chairs for use in the booth. Michael Munroe offered the use of two 5 foot folding tables.

Jeff Cultrera will try to get samples of the games discussed at the 4/8/08. The HRC will evaluate the games at the next meeting to see which one will be used at the festival.

Ken Freidenberg reported that he was unable to get a music source donated for the booth. The HRC decided to have one of the members supply a portable CD player for the booth. Phyllis DiCara and Scott McBride offered the use of their CD players for the event. CD's can be loaned out from the Newington Public Library.

The HRC discussed the possibility of doing some community outreach during the festival. An informational brochure or poster board was ideas that will be taken up at future meetings. It was agreed that the flags used in the Memorial Day parade could also be used in the booth.

The committee agreed to the verbage that would appear on the HRC town sign as "visit us at the Waterfall Festival".

Bulletins that the HRC will be at the Waterfall festival will also appear in local newspapers.

The next order of business was discussion of the **Food/Toiletries Drive:**

The committee agreed that the drive would be a week long event. Donation boxes would be placed in front of participating stores for the week. HRC members would be responsible for collecting the donations. The week of Sept 29 - Oct 5 was identified as a target date. HRC members would stand by the boxes to solicit donations on Sunday October 5th.

Scott McBride has been in contact with the Newington Chamber of Commerce. He will find out how many local businesses would be interested in participating. Jeff Cultrera offered to contact Wal Mart and other big businesses in town to see if they would be interested in participating.

It was agreed that the Waterfall Festival would be a good time to let people know about the drive. Val Ginn offered to start collecting the boxes for the donations.

Ken Freidenberg gave the HRC a quick update of the **Human Services Report**:

Ken reported that the Human services department has been very busy. All programs have seen an increase in their caseloads as the effects of the economy are being felt by the citizens of Newington.

Discussion of other programs for 2008 - 2009 was tabled.

The next HRC meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday June 24th at 7:00 pm.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Michael Munroe - Secretary